

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SCI-06 SSO-00 NSCE-00 PM-07

NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 PA-04 PRS-01 USIE-00

CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 INRE-00 AGR-20 EB-11 COME-00

AID-20 IGA-02 FEAE-00 L-03 DRC-01 NIC-01 SAJ-01 /145 W
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O 261354Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1420

INFO AMCONSUL KRAKOW

AMCONSUL POZNAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 5859

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, PINT, PFOR, TGEN, PL

SUBJECT: MITREGA, NOWAK DISMISSED FROM POSTS IN MINISTRY
OF MINING AND POWER

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. THE CENTRAL PRESS ANNOUNCED SEPTEMBER 25 THAT VICE PREMIER JAN MITREGA, AT HIS OWN REQUEST, HAS BEEN RELIEVED OF HIS POSITION AS MINISTER OF MINING AND POWER AND REPLACED BY JAN KULPINSKI. ON SEPTEMBER 26, THE PRESS ANNOUNCED THE DISMISSAL OF DR. ZYGFRYD NOWAK, VICE MINISTER OF MINING AND POWER, AND THE APPOINTMENT OF BENON STRANZ TO THAT POSITION. IN ADDITION, JERZY KUCHARCZYK HAS BEEN NAMED FIRST DEPUTY MINISTER, A NEW POSITION, AND ERYK PORABKA REPLACED ADAM SZCZUROWSKI AS PRESIDENT OF THE HIGHER MINING ADMINISTRATION. METREGA RETAINS HIS POSITION AS VICE PREMIER. END UNCLASSIFIED.

2. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. THE DISMISSAL OF MITREGA AND NOWAK WAS NOT RELATED TO AND WILL HAVE NO EFFECT UPON US-POLISH RELATIONS AND COOPERATION IN MINING AND ENERGY RESEARCH, ACCORDING TO CHOWANIEC OF THE MFA. CHOWANIEC ATTRIBUTED THE CHANGES TO PRODUCTION PROBLEMS, ALTHOUGH WE ARE INCLINED
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TO GIVE GREATER WEIGHT TO LABOR DIFFICULTIES. FURTHER IN-

FORMATION WILL FOLLOW IN A SEPARATE MESSAGE.

3. STRANZ, NOWAK'S SUCCESSOR, WAS FORMERLY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE CENTRAL MINING INSTITUTE IN KATOWICE. HE IS KNOWN TO THE EMBASSY FOR HIS ASSISTANCE IN SEVERAL COOPERATIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS CARRIED OUT AT THE INSTITUTE UNDER PL-480 FINANCING. IN JULY 1972, HE RECEIVED THE US DELEGATION LED BY HOLLIS M. DOLE, THEN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, AND INCLUDING ROBERT EBEL OF THE OFFICE OF OIL AND GAS AND B.J. LANCASTER, DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOR THE ATLANTIC-RICHFIELD COMPANY.

4. FOLLOWING MY MEETING THIS MORNING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER OLSZOWSKI, I MET SEPARATELY WITH SPASOWSKI AND SAID THAT THE REMOVAL OF BOTH MITREGA AND NOWAK AT THIS TIME RAISED A QUESTION IN MY MIND, SINCE WE KNEW THEM AS THE PRIME MOVERS ON THE POLISH SIDE OF THE PROPOSED US-POLISH AGREEMENT ON ENERGY RESEARCH.

5. SPASOWSKI SAID THAT I COULD BE SURE THESE CHANGES HAD NO RELATIONSHIP TO THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT. THE POLICY OF THE POLISH GOVERNMENT CONTINUED TO BE ONE OF WHOLEHEARTED AND ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT FOR MOVING AHEAD WITH THIS AGREEMENT AND FOR IMPLEMENTING IT VIGOROUSLY AND EFFECTIVELY. HE CONFESSED THAT HE HAD BEEN TAKEN AS MUCH BY SURPRISE BY THESE CHANGES AS I. HE SAID THAT, ON SEPTEMBER 24, HE HAD BEEN DISCUSSING WITH NOWAK PLANS FOR NOWAK'S TRIP TO THE US AT THE SAME TIME AS GIEREK'S VISIT. HE SAID THAT NOWAK WOULD NOT NOW BE GOING AND THE POLISH GOVERNMENT WAS NOW CONSIDERING SENDING ONE OF THE NEW VICE-MINISTERS OF MINING TO WASHINGTON, PERHAPS WITH A MESSAGE TO SECRETARY MORTON FROM THE NEW MINISTER, KULPINSKI, REAFFIRMING THE STRONG INTEREST OF THE GOVERNMENT, THE MINISTRY OF MINING AND POWER, AND THE NEW MINISTER PERSONALLY, IN THE CONCLUSION OF AN AGREEMENT. HE SAID THAT NO DECISION HAD YET BEEN MADE, BUT THAT HE WOULD LET ME KNOW AS SOON AS ONE WAS.

6. I SAID THAT SUCH A MOVE WOULD SEEM TO BE APPROPRIATE.

7. SPASOWSKI AGAIN STRONGLY ASSURED ME THAT THE POLISH GOVERNMENT WAS DEEPLY INTERESTED IN THE CONCLUSION AND EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF AN ENERGY-RESEARCH AGREEMENT. "IT IS NOT A QUESTION OF PERSONS," HE SAID, "BUT OF THE FUNDAMENTAL POLICY OF OUR ENTIRE GOVERNMENT."

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DAVIES

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